

CONQUEST Fact Sheet

Computerized Needs-Oriented Quality Measurement Evaluation SysTem

What Is CONQUEST?

CONQUEST is a quality improvement software tool that uses a common structure and language to help users identify, understand, compare, evaluate, and select measures to assess and improve clinical performance. CONQUEST is comprised of two data bases—one for clinical performance measures and one for conditions. The development of CONQUEST was funded by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). CONQUEST 2.0 is the most current version and supersedes versions 1.0 and 1.1.

This Fact Sheet answers general questions about CONQUEST and quality of care. More in-depth information about CONQUEST is available online: you may access a detailed [Summary of CONQUEST 2.0](#) (including files that can be downloaded) or a comprehensive [Overview of CONQUEST](#).

What is quality of care?

Health care that is accessible, effective, safe, accountable, and fair is quality health care. This means that:

- Providers deliver the right care, to the right patient, at the right time, in the right way.
- Patients can access timely care, have accurate and understandable information about risks and benefits, are protected from unsafe health care services and products and have reliable and understandable information on the care they receive.
- Both patients and clinicians have their rights respected.

How is quality of care measured?

Quality of care is measured through a combination of characteristics of the health care provider(s) and services (procedures or tests) that result in better outcomes for the patient. When the health care provider and services (procedures) combine to improve the condition of the patient and the patient is satisfied with his or her condition, this is said to be good quality care.

What is a clinical performance measure?

A clinical performance measure is a tool to evaluate whether a health care professional provided the appropriate action at the right time given the patient's condition and preferences.

What are some examples of clinical performance measures?

The percentage of diabetics who receive yearly eye or foot examinations are examples of clinical performance measures. The percentage of patients with pneumonia who receive a correct antibiotic within an appropriate timeframe is another example of a clinical performance measure.

How many performance measures are in CONQUEST?

The CONQUEST data base contains 1,197 clinical performance measures. CONQUEST also includes information on 57 common or costly clinical conditions affecting the general population, such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, cataracts, depression, diabetes, gallbladder disease, heart attack, hypertension, and pregnancy.

Who created the measures used in the CONQUEST database?

There are many sources of measures for the CONQUEST data base. Its 53 sets of performance measures were developed by many public and private organizations. Some of the many organizations are:

- American Group Practice Association
- [Department of Veterans Affairs.](#)
- [Health Care Financing Administration.](#)
- [Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.](#)
- [National Committee for Quality Assurance.](#)
- [RAND.](#)
- United Health Care.

Who would benefit from using CONQUEST?

CONQUEST can be used by quality assessment and improvement professionals, clinicians, health care organizations, health care payers and purchasers, employers, researchers, and State and Federal organizations to access ready-to-use clinical performance measures, many of which have already undergone validity or reliability testing.

How do users locate the measures in the CONQUEST database?

Measures can be located by searching for different characteristics for each measure, depending upon the user's questions and the type of data available. Examples include: searching for a measures related to a condition, age group (such as infant, adolescent, adult, elderly); a type of data (such as claims, medical record, or survey); a level or setting of care (such as emergency, hospital, ambulatory, or long term); analysis considerations (for example, whether or not the measure is risk adjusted); or the extent of reliability and validity testing completed by the developer.

How can these measures help different types of users?

Generally, CONQUEST helps users identify measures, understand the characteristics of individual measures, compare measures using a common set of factors, and determine which measures are best suited to the user's particular purpose. While users of CONQUEST may have different measurement needs, CONQUEST's flexibility allows users to be either very broad or very specific in their searches of the data base. For example:

- Health care providers may be interested in measuring performance on a condition-specific basis, that is, looking for measures related to treatment of a condition, so they can assess and improve the quality of care delivered to patients with the condition.
- Managed care plans may be interested in looking for measures already developed specifically for managed care, regardless of the condition, so they can either use or modify those measures.
- Health care purchasers may be interested in performance measures specifically developed for external comparisons (for example, performance between plans) so they can assess, compare, and select plans with the best performance.
- Policymakers can use CONQUEST to identify measures that assess performance over time (for example, assessing quality before and after policy changes).

What makes CONQUEST unique?

- It is a public-use data base provided free to users.
- It allows immediate access to about 1,200 measures.
- It links condition-specific treatment and service recommendations from guidelines to related measures included in the data base.
- It identifies the data requirements for each measure.
- It provides detailed specifications for many measures.
- It enables users to compare measures based on characteristics that are described using a common structure and language.
- It helps users determine which measures are best suited for their particular purposes.
- It is expandable and allows users to add measures and conditions.

How can I obtain the CONQUEST database?

CONQUEST and the User's Guide can be downloaded online at <http://www.ahcpr.gov/qual/conquest.htm>. The CONQUEST diskettes (AHCPR Pub. No. 97-DP01) and User's Guide (AHCPR Pub. No. 97-R001) are also available free from the AHCPR Publications Clearinghouse by calling 800-358-9295 or writing to P.O. Box 8547, Silver Spring, MD 20907.

For More Information

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The CONQUEST database will be expanded periodically. To receive notification of updates or to comment on CONQUEST 2.0 (for example, to report "bugs," data issues, or suggestions for improvement), send E-mail to: CONQUEST@ahcpr.gov. For updates, please include both your mailing address and E-mail address.

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